remains confined to papers only and no concrete and effective steps have been taken so far to implement this Plan; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESHWARLU): (a) Due to unprecedented growth of population, slum settlements, industrial units and auto vehicles, Delhi is experiencing constant pressure on its urban infrastructure and the quality of environment.

(b) and (c) In order to decongest Delhi and develop the NCR, Regional Plan-2001 has been drawn in accordance with the objectives of NCR Planning Board Act, 1985. It is envisaged to plan for Delhi in its regional context by deflecting population and dispersal of economic activities in the NCR outside Delhi. The Regional Plan-2001 is a multi-sectoral policy framework covering the development of regional infrastructure of transportation, power and telecommunications as well as development of selected townships outside Delhi. The strategy is for the integrated development of the townships for generating employment opportunities outside National Capacity Territory of Delhi to absorbe Delhi-bound migrants and reduce the pressure of population on Delhi. The Member States and their development agencies have drawn up various programmes funded by loan assistance from NCR Planning Board which has financed so far 89 projects out of which 46 projects have been completed and 43 projects are on-going. The expenditure of Rs. 252.71 crores has been incurred on these projects.

Conference of Chief Ministers at New Delhi

1932. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of Chief Ministers of States and Administrators of Union territories were held recently at New Delhi;

(b) If so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether some decisions were taken during the Conference; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps to be taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment had convened a Conference of Chief Ministers on Basic Minimum Services in New Delhi on 4th-5th July, 1996. All the States/UTs except Lakshadweep, and the concerned Union Territories/Departments actively participated in the Conference. After discussion, the Conference adopted a set of recommendations. The major recommendations of the Conference are given in the Statement (*see* below). The concerned Union Ministries/Departments and all the State/UT Govts. have been requested to process these recommendations expeditiously. The State/UT Govts. have also been requested to identify a nodal Department for processing these recommendations so that the Department of Programme Implementation in the Union Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation could correspond with them.

Statement

Major recommendations adopted by the conference of Chief Ministers on basic minimum services held in New Delhi on 4th-5th July, 1996.

The Conference congratulated the prime Minister on taking the initiative to organise this discussion on Basic Minimum Servics, which is a subject of national importance and high priority.

2. The Conference endorsed the seven Basic Minimum Services enumerated in the Agenda as of paramount importance in securing a better quality of life for our

people, especially those residing in rural areas. It would be in the best interests of the country, if time bound action plans are formulated to secure full coverage of the country with these seven Basic Services by 2000 A.D.

3. Such a time-bound and result oriented achievement was essential for the rapid growth of the economy and for social justice. These Basic Services should constitute the core of our social sector and Minimum Needs Programmes. The priorities in these sectors and programmes should be revised to reflect the imperative need to concentrate our efforts and resources on these services.

4. The Conference noted that the two issues of (a) redefining Centre State relationships and (b) review of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, both of which find prominent mention in the Common Minimum Programme would be taken up in the forthcoming meetings of National Development Council, Inter-State Council etc. and decisions would be taken in consultation with the Chief Ministers.

5. The Conference recommended the adoption of the following objectives with an all out effort for their attainment by 2000 A.D.

(i) 100% coverage of provision of safe drinking water in rural and urban areas.

(ii) 100% coverage of primary health service facilities in rural and urban areas.

(iii) Universalisation of primary education.

(iv) Provision of Public Housing Assistance to all shelterless poor families.

(v) Extension of Mid-day-Meal programme in primary schools, to all rural blocks and urban slums and disadvantaged sections.

(vi) Provision of connectivity to all unconnected villages and habitations.

(vii) Streamline the Public Distribution System with focus upon the poor.

6. Within these broad objectives agreed upon between the Centre and the State, the transfer of the Central share of funds be done with flexibilities given to the states in implementation, suiting local conditions and emphasis on involvement of people through elected Panchayats and municipalities.

States be given greater involvement, freedom and flexibility in the implementation of these programmes.

11. Provisions available under Centrally Sponsored Schemes other than those mentioned in Para 8 and Para 10 above, should be pooled and basic State entitlement ratios should be worked out on the basis of allocations made to the States in 1995-96. The States should be free to select for implementation, from the list of these Centrally Sponsored Schemes circulated by the Centre, suiting their needs for using their annual entitlement.

12. The States annual entitlement under all Centrally Sponsored Schemes should be increased by 15-20% every year.

13. The Department of Programme Implementation in the Union Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation would work out the details of these revisions in the guidelines and procedures in consultation with the relevant Central Ministries and a group of Chief Ministers. This exercise may be completed within one month, so that the revisions and changes would be available during this year itself.

14. The Conference recommended regular Central and State joint monitoring and reviews of these programmes.

15. The Conference endorsed that the funds allocated for these Basic Minimum Needs in the State and the Central plan should not be diverted and these funds should be made available in two instalments to the implementing agencies in consultation with State Governments. The first instalment would automatically be released to the implementing agencies in the first week of April and the second

instalment will be conditional to at least 50% expenditure of available funds and upon furnishing utilisation details/certificates.

Career Management of CRPF Officers

1933. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether, according to the Deptt. of Personnel & Training monograph, the CRPF Group 'A' officers have been specifically mentioned as belonging to an organised service;

(b) whether, as per the same monograph, if number of officers in a service becomes viable they should be constituted in an organised service, which was corroborated by the judgement of the supreme Court;

(c) whether Govt. are indifferent to the career management of CRPF cadre officers and conferring the benefits of an organised service; and

(d) by when, the anomaly would be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) The CRPF Group A officers have not been specifically mentioned as belonging to an 'Organised Service' in the monograph issued by the Deptt. of Personnel & Training.

(b) The essential attributes of an organised Group A Services are:—

(i) the highest cadre post is not below the level of Rs. 5900-6700;

(ii) it has all the standard grades, namely, Rs. 2200-4000, Rs. 3000-4500, Rs. 3700-5000/- Rs. 4500-5700 and Rs. 5900-6700;

(iii) at least 50% of the vacancies in the Junior Time Scale (Rs. 2200-4000) are required to be filled by direct recruitment;

(iv) all vacancies above the Junior Time Scale and upto the Senior Administrative Grade (Rs. 900-6700) are filled by promotion from the next lower grade.

Since the CRPF does not fulfil the above criteria, it has not been treated as an organised service.

(c) and (d) Two cadre reviews, with a view to improve the career prospects of the officers of the Central Reserve Police Force have been conducted in 1982 and 1989. The orders regarding introduction of non-functional selection grade have also been extended to the Central Reserve Police Force. It is, therefore, not correct to say that the Govt. has been indifferent to the career management of CRPF cadre officers.

Reduction in Number of Public Holidays

1934. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has the shortest working year in the World, viz. 1357 hours as compared to 1700-1800 hours put in by a worker in Europe and the United States; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it was taken into account while deciding holidays in a year; if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the loss to the country on this account, in monetary terms and in working hours;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reduce the number of holidays; and

(e) whether Government propose to advise the State and UTs to reduce the holidays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (d) Working hours and holidays for various Central Govt. organisations are not uniform and have been prescribed